

1. (Amended) A support bracket for securing wire fence elements to posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the bracket comprising the following:

a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post;

a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post; and

a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post, the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots;

whereby the bracket can be mounted to the post in a first position in which the leg is received in the third slot, and a second position in which the leg extends opposite the third slot.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) A support bracket for securing wire fence elements to posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the bracket comprising the following:

a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post;

a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, the second slot being generally aligned with the first slot; and

a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post, the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots, the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots;

whereby the bracket can be mounted to the post in a first position in which the leg is received in the third slot, and a second position in which the leg extends opposite the third slot.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) A method for securing wire fence elements to fence posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a first support bracket including a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, and a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots;

providing a second support bracket including a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, and a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots;

mounting the first bracket to a post in a first position in which the leg of the post is received in the third slot of the bracket; and
mounting the second bracket to a post in a second position in which the leg of the post extends opposite the third slot of the bracket.